(a) whether it is a fact that only 60 per cent of money in centrally sponsored schemes reached the target groups;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no proper monitoring agency for the works either in the Central or the State Governments; and

(d) if so, the comments of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) No, Sir. State-wise release of funds under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), as well as monitoring of their utilization by each State, is undertaken by the respective Central Government Ministry/Departments implementing the CSS. The modalities for implementation of such schemes are clearly outlined by the Ministries/Departments of the Central Government in the guidelines of each Scheme. The Administrative Ministry/Department concerned of Central Government and the State Governments have to ensure proper use of funds given to States. The States also provide Utilization Certificates from time to time and other reports, as may be prescribed based on which further release of funds is made. The Comptroller and Auditor General has the constitutional responsibility to audit the utilization of funds and report any misuse/diversion to the Parliament/State Legislatures.

Academic institutions in Uttarakhand

832. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many academic institutions in Uttarakhand have been supported through the programmes of Fund for Improvement of Science and Technology Infrastructure, during 2007-08 and 2008-09, so far; and

(b) the amount released to these institutions during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Two academic institutions (Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee and Kumaun University, Nainital) during 2007-08 and three academic Institutions (Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee; H.N.B. Garhwal University, Srinagar (Garhwal); and Shri Guru Ram Rai PG College, Dehradun) during 2008-09 were supported in Uttarakhand through the programmes of Fund for Improvement of Science and Technology Infrastructure.

(b) An amount of Rs. 723.6 Lakhs and Rs. 481.1 Lakhs were supported during 2007-08 and in 2008-09 respectively, to the above institutions.

Removal of sand from river in Tamil Nadu

833. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the indiscriminate removal of sand in abundance from rivers in Tamil Nadu with the consent and connivance of authorities by the ruling party men

and earning lot of ill-gotten money besides leading to hampering the sub-soil water table and permanent damage to underground water potential; and

(b) if so, the measures that are taken to protect the natural resource and the interest of public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Indiscriminate removal of sand from rivers is not being done in Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu is providing sand to the people for the purpose of construction activities through a single point department that is Public Works Department (PWD), with effect form 02.10.2003 to control indiscriminate sand quarrying by private agencies. The sand quarrying operations are done by the PWD, with the prior approval of the District Collectors after considering all the related issues to protect natural resources and to protect the interest of public. Sand quarrying is done from rivers at very shallow depths (less than 1m) without affecting the river flow and regime and ensuring environmental protection carefully. In effect, sand movement through littoral drift is only quarried and subsoil water table and the ground water potential are in no way affected.

Implementation of Senior Citizen Act, 2007

834. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the latest status of implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act, 2007;

(b) whether the Act has been implemented by all the States/UTs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) The Act has so far been brought into force by 21 states and all the 7 UTs. A statement giving details of steps taken by the states for its effective implementation is enclosed.

Statement

Steps taken by States for Implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act-2007

Sl. No.	Name of State/ UT	Date of Notification of Act	Appointed date of enforcement of act in State/UT	Date of Notification of Rules	Date of Notification of Maintenance Officer	Date of Notification of Maintenance Tribunal	Date of Notification of Appellate Tribunal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22.04.08	28.04.08				